

S/N To Be Assigned

PATENT

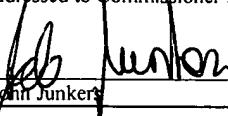
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Ferris et al.	Examiner:	To Be Assigned
Serial No.:	To Be Assigned	Group Art Unit:	To Be Assigned
Filed:	February <u>4</u> , 2004	Docket No.:	2316.1602USD1
Customer No.:	23552		
Title:	Coupler for Cable Trough		

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10:**

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EV 407363306 US  
Date of Deposit: February 4, 2004

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By:   
Name: John Junkers

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))**

**Mail Stop Patent Application**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, which is not an application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d). Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is not provided because it was previously cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in parent application, U.S. Serial No. 09/991,382, filed on November 16, 2001.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,  
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Date: February 4, 2004

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Robert A. Kalinsky  
Reg. No.: 50,471  
RAK:pll

<b>FORM 1449*</b> <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b> <b>IN AN APPLICATION</b> <small>(Use several sheets if necessary)</small>			Docket Number: 2316.1602USD1		Application Number: To Be Assigned
			Applicant: Ferris et al.		
			Filing Date: February 4, 2004		Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	2,316,166	04/13/1943	Huguelet			
	2,741,499	04/10/1956	Kussmaul			
	2,821,154	01/28/1958	Tennison, Jr.			
	2,823,056	02/11/1958	Di Meo et al.			
	2,834,622	05/13/1958	Reeves			
	2,891,750	06/23/1959	Bergquist			
	3,022,972	02/27/1962	Bunston			
	3,042,351	07/03/1962	Du Bois			
	3,351,699	11/07/1967	Merckle			
	3,370,121	02/20/1968	Merckle			
	3,457,598	07/29/1969	Mariani			
	3,471,629	10/07/1969	O'Leary			
	3,603,625	09/07/1971	Cottrell et al.			
	3,782,420	01/01/1974	Kolb et al.			
	3,875,618	04/08/1975	Schuplin			
	3,915,420	10/28/1975	Norris			
	4,099,749	07/11/1978	van Vliet			
	4,305,236	12/15/1981	Williams			
	4,854,665	08/08/1989	Gagnon			
	4,954,015	09/04/1990	McGowan			
	5,035,092	07/30/1991	Brant			
	5,038,528	08/13/1991	Brant			
	5,067,678	11/26/1991	Henneberger et al.			
	5,078,530	01/1992	Kim, Byong Y.			
	5,100,221	03/31/1992	Carney et al.			
	5,134,250	07/28/1992	Caveney et al.			
	5,142,606	08/25/1992	Carney et al.			
	5,161,580	11/10/1992	Klug			
	5,316,243	05/31/1994	Henneberger			

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	

<b>FORM 1449*</b> <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b> <b>IN AN APPLICATION</b> <small>(Use several sheets if necessary)</small>		Docket Number: 2316.1602USD1		Application Number: To Be Assigned
		Applicant: Ferris et al.		
		Filing Date: February 4, 2004		Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS (continued)						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	Des. 348,651	07/12/1994	Henneberger			
	5,469,893	11/28/1995	Caveney et al.			
	5,720,567	02/24/1998	Rinderer			
	5,752,781	05/19/1998	Haataja et al.			
	5,753,855	05/19/1998	Nicoli et al.			
	5,792,993	08/11/1998	Rinderer			
	Des. 402,262	12/08/1998	Scherer et al.			
	Des. 402,263	12/08/1998	Scherer et al.			
	5,924,260	07/1999	Austin et al.			
	Des. 413,306	08/31/1999	Scherer et al.			
	5,995,699	11/30/1999	Vargas et al.			
	5,998,732	12/07/1999	Caveney et al.			
	Des. 419,962	02/01/2000	Caveney			
	6,037,543	03/14/2000	Nicoli et al.			
	Des. 430,543	09/05/2000	Rohder			
	6,143,984	11/07/2000	Auteri			
	6,188,024 B1	02/13/2001	Benito-Navazo			
	6,193,434 B1	02/27/2001	Durin et al.			
	D 447,737 S	09/11/2001	Scherer et al.			
	2002/0006312 A1	01/17/2002	Buard			
	6,402,418 B1	06/11/2002	Durin et al.			
	6,424,779 B1	07/23/2002	Ellison et al.			
	2002/0096606 A1	07/25/2002	Bernard et al.			
	6,450,458 B1	09/17/2002	Bernard			
	6,454,485	09/2002	Holcomb et al.			
	6,476,327 B1	11/05/2002	Bernard et al.			
	6,512,875 B1	01/28/2003	Johnson et al.			
	6,523,791 B2	02/25/2003	Bernard et al.			
	2003/0147690	08/2003	Ronnquist, Lennart			

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	

<b>FORM 1449*</b> <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b> <b>IN AN APPLICATION</b> <small>(Use several sheets if necessary)</small>			Docket Number: 2316.1602USD1		Application Number: To Be Assigned
			Applicant: Ferris et al.		
			Filing Date: February 4, 2004		Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS (continued)						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	6,634,825	10/2003	Tolkoff et al.			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	549,840	12/09/1942	UK				
	1.479.341	03/28/1967	FR			X	
	1 342 085	12/28/1973	UK				
	3636412 A1	04/28/1988	DE			X	
	0 315 023 A2	05/10/1989	EP				
	0 571 307 A1	11/24/1993	EP				
	0 486 442 B1	10/04/1995	EP				
	0 874 260 A1	10/28/1998	EP				
	99/06746	02/11/1999	WO PCT				
	1 033 800 A1	09/06/2000	EP				
	00/75550	12/14/2000	WO PCT				
	1 160 949 A2	12/05/2001	EP				
	1 160 950 A2	12/05/2001	EP				
	02/18991	03/07/2002	WO PCT				
	02/31939 A1	04/01/2002	WO PCT				
	02/33445 A2	04/24/2002	WO PCT				
	1 249 912 A1	10/16/2002	EPO				
	02/086576 A1	10/31/2002	PCT				
	102 12 285 A1	11/21/2002	DE				X

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	

<b>FORM 1449*</b> <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b> <b>IN AN APPLICATION</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)		Docket Number: 2316.1602USD1	Application Number: To Be Assigned
		Applicant: Ferris et al.	
		Filing Date: February 4, 2004	Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		
	Exhibit A	DITEL, Inc.; DITEL UPL-1000/UPT-1000/Corner Cable Guides; product information, 2 pages, © 1986.
	Exhibit B	ADC Telecommunications, Inc.; FiberGuide™, Fiber Management System, 6 pages front and back printed.
	Exhibit C	Warren & Brown Technologies Pty. Ltd., Fibre Optic Management Systems, Component Selection Guide, 19 pages of product information. Source: <a href="http://www.warrenandbrown.com.au">www.warrenandbrown.com.au</a> .
	Exhibit D	Panduit Network Connectivity Group, FiberRunner™ 6x4 Routing System Product Brochure, 2 pages, © Panduit Corp. 2000.
	Exhibit E	Panduit Corp. FiberRunner™ 4x4 Quiklock™ Coupler (FRBC4X4) Customer Drawing, 1 page, 07/13/2001.
	Exhibit F	Panduit Corp. FiberRunner™ 6x4 Quiklock™ Coupler (FRBC6X4) Customer Drawing, 1 page, 05/10/2000.
	Exhibit G	Panduit Corp. FiberRunner™ 12x4 Quiklock™ Coupler (FRBC12X4) Customer Drawing, 1 page, 01/03/2001.
	Exhibits H-M	Photographs of various Panduit products.

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	